

# Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, Room 113  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Co-Lead Agency:  
California Energy Commission  
Fuels and Transportation  
Division  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Co-Lead Agency:  
California Department of  
Transportation (Caltrans)  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program Interagency Agreement

**Project Applicant:** California Energy Commission/Caltrans

**Project Location - Specific:** Across California

**Project Location - City:** Varies

**Project Location - County:** Varies

## Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The \$5 billion NEVI Formula Program is part of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law by President Biden in November 2021. The NEVI Formula Program will provide dedicated funding to States to strategically deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability. The deployment of the electric vehicle chargers will help ease consumer concerns around range anxiety and accelerate deployment of electric vehicles in California. This project will also help meet the goals of Executive Order B-48-18 which calls for 5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roadways by 2030 and sets a goal of having 250,000 electric vehicle chargers by 2025 in California.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission/Caltrans

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** NEVI Project Awardees

## Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: §15301 – “Existing Facilities”  
§15303 – “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures”  
§15304 – “Minor Alterations to Land”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reasons why project is exempt:

Under this agreement, Caltrans will work with the California Energy Commission, to release grant funding opportunities to fund the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The electric vehicle charging infrastructure will only involve commercially available products being installed in existing parking areas and/or existing facilities. California Code Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alterations of existing public

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or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This meets the requirements of 14 CCR 15301 because installation of electric vehicle chargers will only involve minor alterations and no expansion of use since the parking areas or facilities already exist.

CCR Title 14 Section 15303 provides that projects which consist of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This meets the requirements of 14 CCR 15303 because only a limited number of small new equipment in the form of electric vehicle chargers and associated equipment will be added to existing parking areas. This work will only require minor modifications, such as small amounts of trenching, extending electrical lines to the equipment, securing the electric vehicle chargers in place, and adding signage. Therefore, the project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

CCR Title 14 Section 15304 Provides that projects which consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. For the installation of equipment in this project, there will be minimal trenching to connect electrical equipment to the electric vehicle chargers. No trees are anticipated to be removed and the surface will be restored. Therefore, the project falls within section 15304 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Ben De Alba

**Area**

**Code/Telephone/Extension:** 916-539-6828

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: BDA Date: 8/10/2023 Title: Energy Resources Supervisor III

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed By Applicant

**Date Received for filing at OPR:** 8/8/2023